

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035097

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW 1870 SENT ACTION SECSTATE USDOC AND

TREASURY DTD 11 FEB 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 1870

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD UR US

SUBJECT: US-USSR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING, APRIL 75

1. DURING RECENT MOSCOW MEETING WITH SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER V.S. ALKHIMOV ATTENDED BY HAROLD SCOTT AND JOHN CONNOR OF US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND ALSO BY EMBOFFS, CONNOR RAISED QUESTION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR OPERATIONS OF US FIRMS' REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN MOSCOW, OF EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICE, AND OF SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON AND KAMA COMMISSION IN NEW YORK. CONNOR'S ARGUMENT THAT NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF 1972 TRADE AGREEMENT LEAVES THESE OFFICES IN LIMBO AND NEW BILATERAL GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON COMPANY OFFICES NOW NECESSARY TO PROVIDE AUTHORITY FOR THEIR OPERATION. ALKHIMOV RESPONSE, TACITLY CONCURRED IN BY OTHER SOVIETS PRESENT, WAS THAT

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SOVIETS HAVE NO INTENTION OF QUESTIONING STATUS OF US

COMPANY OFFICES IN MOSCOW OR COMMERCIAL OFFICE AND SEE NO REASON TO RAISE ISSUE UNLESS USG DOES SO.

2. TO CONNOR'S CONTINUED PRESSING ALKHIMOV REPLIED THAT IF BOTH US AND SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION MEETING SET FOR APRIL 1975 IN MOSCOW DEEM DESIRABLE SOME FURTHER BUTTRESSING OF LEGAL BASIS FOR BUSINESS OFFICES, POSSIBLY AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON SUBJECT BETWEEN CHIEFS OF TWO DELEGATIONS MIGHT BE ARRANGED. ALKHIMOV MADE CLEAR THAT HE SEES NO NEED FOR SUCH LETTERS AND THAT SOVIETS WOULD PREFER TO LEAVE ISSUE DORMANT.

3. COMMENT: EMBOFFS TOOK NO PART IN EXCHANGE AND NOTED INITIATIVE APPEARED TO ORIGINATE WITH CONNOR, AS SCOTT NEITHER SUPPORTED NOR EXPANDED UPON CONNOR'S REMARKS. EMBASSY BELIEVES SOVIETS WOULD IN ANY CASE AGREE ARTICLE IV OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT SIGNED JUNE 29, 1975, WOULD SATISFY ANY NEED FOR AUTHORIZATION OF OFFICES IN QUESTION.
STOESSEL UNQTE
INGERSOLL

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